

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming a wireless network comprising the following steps:

(a) broadcasting a network invitation signal to a potential member of the wireless
5 network that are within a range of the wireless network; and,

(b) upon a potential member of the wireless network responding affirmatively to
join the wireless network, performing the following substeps:

(b.1) obtaining identification information from the potential member, and

(b.2) including the potential member within the wireless network.

10 2. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step:

(c) upon a second potential member of the wireless network responding negatively
to join the wireless network, excluding the second potential member from the wireless
network.

15 3. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (a) potential members of the wireless
network include users with one of the following devices:

a personal digital assistant;

a notebook computer;

20 a cellular phone;

a pager.

4. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step:

(c) upon the potential member selecting to log out of the wireless network, excluding the potential member from the wireless network.

5. A method as in claim 1 additionally comprising the following step:

5 (c) upon the wireless network losing contact with the potential member, excluding the potential member from the wireless network.

6. A method as in claim 1 wherein in step (a) the range of the wireless network includes one of the following:

10 a store site;

a sports stadium;

a sports pavilion;

a museum;

a tourist site;

15 a university;

a school;

an apartment complex;

a home;

a manufacturing location;

20 a research site.

7. A method by which a potential member interacts with a wireless network, the method comprising the following step:

(a) upon the potential member receiving a broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network, performing the following substeps by the potential member:

(a.1) when the potential member wishes to join the wireless network, performing the following substeps:

5 responding affirmatively to the broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network, and

 providing identification information to the wireless network in response to a request for the identification information, and

 (a.2) when the potential member does not wish to join the wireless
10 network, performing the following substep:

 responding negatively to the broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network.

15 8. A method as in claim 7 wherein the potential member is a user with one of the following devices:

 a personal digital assistant;

 a notebook computer;

 a cellular phone;

 a pager.

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9. A method as in claim 7 additionally comprising the following step:

(b) upon the potential member selecting to log out of the wireless network, exiting the potential member from the wireless network.

10. A method as in claim 7 additionally comprising the following step:

(b) upon the potential member losing contact with the wireless network ,
excluding the potential member from the wireless network.

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11. A method as in claim 7 wherein a range of the wireless network includes one
of the following:

a store site;

a sports stadium;

a sports pavilion;

a museum;

a tourist site;

a university;

a school;

an apartment complex;

a home;

a manufacturing location;

a research site.

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12. Storage media which when executed on a computing device performs a
method by which a potential member interacts with a wireless network, the method
comprising the following step:

(a) upon the potential member receiving a broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network, performing the following substeps by the potential member:

(a.1) when the potential member wishes to join the wireless network, performing the following substeps:

5 responding affirmatively to the broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network, and

 providing identification information to the wireless network in response to a request for the identification information; and,

10 (a.2) when the potential member does not wish to join the wireless network, performing the following substep:

 responding negatively to the broadcast network invitation signal to join the wireless network.

15 13. Storage media as in claim 12 wherein the computing device is one of the following:

 a personal digital assistant;

 a notebook computer;

 a cellular phone;

 a pager.

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 14. Storage media as in claim 12 wherein the method additionally comprises the following step:

(b) upon the potential member selecting to log out of the wireless network, exiting the potential member from the wireless network.

15. Storage media as in claim 12 wherein the method additionally comprises the
5 following step:

(b) upon the potential member losing contact with the wireless network ,
regarding the potential member as having exited from the wireless network.

16. Storage media as in claim 12 wherein a range of the wireless network
10 includes one of the following:

a store site;

a sports stadium;

a sports pavilion;

a museum;

15 a tourist site;

a university;

a school;

an apartment complex;

a home;

20 a manufacturing location;

a research site.